



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Committee Bill No. 5648**

LCO No. 4382

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05648TRA\_\_\_\_031809\_\_\_\_\_\*

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY RETESTING OF KNOWLEDGE OF  
DRIVING LAWS PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE  
OPERATOR'S LICENSE TO A PERSON WHO IS SIXTEEN OR  
SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2009*):

4 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any  
5 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant  
6 has held a learner's permit and has satisfied the requirements specified  
7 in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) present to the  
8 [commissioner] Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a certificate of the  
9 successful completion (i) in a public secondary school, a state  
10 vocational school or a private secondary school of a full course of  
11 study in motor vehicle operation prepared as provided in section 14-  
12 36e, (ii) of training of similar nature provided by a licensed drivers'  
13 school approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training in  
14 accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each

15 case, or by a combination of such types of training, successful  
16 completion of: Not less than twenty clock hours of behind-the-wheel,  
17 on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a learner's permit is  
18 issued before August 1, 2008; and not less than forty clock hours of  
19 behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction for applicants to whom a  
20 learner's permit is issued on or after August 1, 2008; (B) present to the  
21 commissioner a certificate of the successful completion of a course of  
22 not less than eight hours relative to safe driving practices, including a  
23 minimum of four hours on the nature and the medical, biological and  
24 physiological effects of alcohol and drugs and their impact on the  
25 operator of a motor vehicle, the dangers associated with the operation  
26 of a motor vehicle after the consumption of alcohol or drugs by the  
27 operator, the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for  
28 alcohol and drug-related motor vehicle violations; and (C) pass an  
29 examination which [may] shall include a comprehensive test as to  
30 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the  
31 road in addition to the test required under subsection (c) of this section  
32 and shall include an on-the-road skills test as prescribed by the  
33 commissioner. At the time of application and examination for a motor  
34 vehicle operator's license, an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of  
35 age shall have held a learner's permit for not less than one hundred  
36 eighty days, except that an applicant who presents a certificate under  
37 subparagraph (A)(i) or subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall  
38 have held a learner's permit for not less than one hundred twenty days  
39 and an applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the  
40 handicapped driver training unit in accordance with the provisions of  
41 section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period of time  
42 required by said unit. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall  
43 approve the content of the safe driving instruction at drivers' schools,  
44 high schools and other secondary schools. Such hours of instruction  
45 required by this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition  
46 to any existing instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course  
47 required under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not exceed  
48 an amount prescribed by the commissioner by regulation, adopted in  
49 accordance with chapter 54. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years

50 of age who, while a resident of another state, completed the course  
51 required in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete  
52 the safe driving course required in subparagraph (B) of this  
53 subdivision, shall complete the safe driving course, and any fee  
54 charged for the course shall not exceed an amount prescribed by the  
55 commissioner by regulation, adopted in accordance with chapter 54.  
56 The commissioner may waive any requirement in this subdivision,  
57 except for that in subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, in the case of  
58 an applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age who holds a valid motor  
59 vehicle operator's license issued by any other state, provided the  
60 commissioner is satisfied that the applicant has received training and  
61 instruction of a similar nature. (2) The commissioner may accept as  
62 evidence of sufficient training under subparagraph (A) of subdivision  
63 (1) of this subsection home training as evidenced by a written  
64 statement signed by the spouse of a married minor applicant, or by a  
65 parent, grandparent, foster parent or legal guardian of an applicant  
66 which states that the applicant has obtained a learner's permit and has  
67 successfully completed a driving course taught by the person signing  
68 the statement, that the signer has had an operator's license for at least  
69 four years preceding the date of the statement, and that the signer has  
70 not had such license suspended by the commissioner for at least four  
71 years preceding the date of the statement or, if the applicant has no  
72 spouse, parent, grandparent, foster parent or guardian so qualified and  
73 available to give the instruction, a statement signed by the applicant's  
74 stepparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or marriage,  
75 provided the person signing the statement is qualified. (3) If the  
76 commissioner requires a written test of any applicant under this  
77 section, the test shall be given in English or Spanish at the option of the  
78 applicant, provided the commissioner shall require that the applicant  
79 shall have sufficient understanding of English for the interpretation of  
80 traffic control signs. (4) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may  
81 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
82 implement the purposes of this subsection concerning the  
83 requirements for behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction and the  
84 content of safe driving instruction at drivers' schools, high schools and

85 other secondary schools.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2009</i>	14-36(d)
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***TRA***      *Joint Favorable*